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The Stronger Families Learning Exchange is gathering information and research findings relevant to strengthening families and communities. Listed below is a selection of online documents which may be of use to families, practitioners and policy makers.

## Information for parents

### Family tips

*Focus on the Family Australia* – [www.families.org.au/5/tips.asp](http://www.families.org.au/5/tips.asp)

Family tips covering a wide range of family topics.

### Health information

*HealthInsite* – [www.healthinsite.gov.au/](http://www.healthinsite.gov.au/)

A searchable Commonwealth Government web site which aims to improve the health of Australians by providing easy access to quality information about human health.

### Health information

*Child and Youth Health* – [www.cyh.com/cyh/index.stm](http://www.cyh.com/cyh/index.stm)

The web site from Child and Youth Health, an independent South Australian Government health unit, offers a searchable parenting-child health database, specially written for parents, covering a wide range of topics, and a youth health database especially written for young people 12-24 years.

### Individual family service plan

*IFSPWeb, US* – [nncf.unl.edu/ifspweb/ifsp-home.html](http://nncf.unl.edu/ifspweb/ifsp-home.html)

A self-paced tutorial designed to help Nebraska parents and professionals create better Individual Family Service Plans (IFSPs) for young children with disabilities. A philosophy of family-centred services is that programs be built on existing strengths of the family and the child.

### Looking after kids

*WA Department of Family and Children's Services* – [www.fcs.wa.gov.au/templates/looking\\_after\\_kids/default.cfm](http://www.fcs.wa.gov.au/templates/looking_after_kids/default.cfm)

Information, services and resources for looking after kids. Parenting tips are offered, as is information about children and child development, available services, Aboriginal



families, and information for children and young people.

### Parent easy guides

*Parenting SA* – [www.parenting.sa.gov.au/pegs.asp](http://www.parenting.sa.gov.au/pegs.asp)

Simple, easy-to-read information on many of the issues faced by parents from birth through adolescence. The guides are organised in three categories: General parenting; Aboriginal; and Multicultural.

### Parenting magazines

*Parenting NSW* – [www.parenting.nsw.gov.au/](http://www.parenting.nsw.gov.au/)

The New South Wales Government has developed a series of Parenting Magazines offering advice and tips for parents, which can be downloaded from this site. Also offered are Recipes for children; Kids fun on the

Web; Young parents corner; Child wellbeing research; and Information for practitioners and for volunteers.

### Parenting tips

*NSW Department of Community Services* – [www.community.nsw.gov.au/document/parent/title.htm](http://www.community.nsw.gov.au/document/parent/title.htm)

Online magazines in PDF format offer information and helpful tips for parents.

### Stepfamilies

*The Stepfamily Association of Victoria* – [www.stepfamily.org.au/](http://www.stepfamily.org.au/)  
Provides links, articles and papers, and information about courses available for stepfamilies.

### Stepfamilies

*Stepfamily Association of South Australia and Stepfamily Australia*

– [www.stepfamily.asn.au/main.htm](http://www.stepfamily.asn.au/main.htm)  
Stepfamily Zone, from the Stepfamily Association of South Australia and Stepfamily Australia, offers resources for stepfamilies, including articles, links, newsletter, and books.

### Talking with kids about tough issues

*Children Now and the Kaiser Family Foundation* – [www.talkingwithkids.org/](http://www.talkingwithkids.org/)

A United States initiative to encourage and assist parents to talk with their children earlier and more often about issues like sex, HIV/AIDS, violence, alcohol, and drug abuse.

## Community development resources

### Community development: the collaborative community investment approach

*Australian Youth Foundation, 2000* – [www.ayf.org.au/Resources/Comm%20Coll%20Background%20Paper/Background%20Paper.htm](http://www.ayf.org.au/Resources/Comm%20Coll%20Background%20Paper/Background%20Paper.htm)

Includes a listing of principal Commonwealth and state government initiatives in community development in the 1970s, 1980s and 1990s; non-governmental approaches to community development; and a potential framework for the Australian Youth Foundation's implementation process for the Community Collaboration Investment Approach.

### Community participation survey, February 2001

*Swinburne Institute for Social Research* – [www.sisr.net/program/csp/occasionalpapers/surfcoastSurvey.PDF](http://www.sisr.net/program/csp/occasionalpapers/surfcoastSurvey.PDF)

The basic survey instrument used in the Institute's national project across five Victorian and New South Wales local communities. It may be downloaded and used by local governments and community groups (but please include proper attribution).

### Community resilience manual: a resource for rural recovery and renewal

Centre for Community Enterprise, Canada – [www.cedworks.com/](http://www.cedworks.com/) Select "Community resilience" from menu. After completion of a registration form, this manual is available in PDF format.

### Community tool box

University of Kansas – [ctb.lsi.ukans.edu/tools/tools.htm](http://ctb.lsi.ukans.edu/tools/tools.htm)

Provides more than 200 sections of practical and detailed information about how to do the work of community building. Includes a model for change; evaluating comprehensive community initiatives; and framework for program evaluation.

### Early years guidelines for community coordinators and steering committees

Ontario Children's Secretariat, March 2001 – [www.childsec.gov.on.ca/3\\_resources/early\\_years\\_study/steering\\_guidelines.html#Anchor-Pa-4168](http://www.childsec.gov.on.ca/3_resources/early_years_study/steering_guidelines.html#Anchor-Pa-4168)

The purpose of the community-based Early Years Project is to build capacity and shared responsibility in order to make early child development and parenting programs available to all children in Ontario. The guidelines cover principles, project tasks, community ownership, accountability, and roles and responsibilities.

### First national conference on the future of Australia's country towns: Practical strategies for sustainable futures: Bendigo, June 2000

The Regional Institute Ltd – [www.regional.org.au/countrytowns/index.htm](http://www.regional.org.au/countrytowns/index.htm)

Online proceedings include keynote presentations, and papers grouped under the following themes: Global forces – big changes; What are the development options? Ingredients for successful strategies; Community responses to change; and Sharing ideas – strategies and initiatives.

### Good beginning: sending America's children to school with the social and emotional competence they need to succeed

Child Mental Health Foundations and Agencies Network (USA) (PDF 399K) – [www.nimh.nih.gov/childhp/monograph.pdf](http://www.nimh.nih.gov/childhp/monograph.pdf)

This monograph summarises the research on the social and emotional risk and protective factors that predict early school outcomes and to analyse the federal policies that seek to improve these outcomes. It then explores the existing gaps between research and practice and provides recommendations for change.

### Monitoring outcomes: achieving goals

City of Onkaparinga, 2000 – [www.onkaparingacity.com/council/departments/indicators/index.htm](http://www.onkaparingacity.com/council/departments/indicators/index.htm)

A practical guide for using community indicators to monitor the strategic directions of a local government area or region.

### New commitment to neighbourhood renewal: national strategy action plan (UK)

Social Exclusion Unit, UK Cabinet Office, January 2001 (PDF 1543K) – [www.cabinet-office.gov.uk/seu/2001/action-plan.pdf](http://www.cabinet-office.gov.uk/seu/2001/action-plan.pdf)

The purpose of the National Strategy for Neighbourhood Renewal is to tackle the unacceptably bad conditions in the UK's poor neighbourhoods. Whitehall departments will be judged for the first time on the areas where they are doing worst rather than on the national average. This document sets out a raft of commitments to policies, resources and targets, which can only be achieved if departments work well together, and with local communities and service providers.

### Revisiting the old in revitalising the new: capacity building in Western Australia's Aboriginal communities: a discussion with case studies: final report

Western Australia Aboriginal Affairs Department, 2000 (PDF 456K) – [www.aad.wa.gov.au/Downloads/pdfs/FINALREPORT.pdf](http://www.aad.wa.gov.au/Downloads/pdfs/FINALREPORT.pdf)

The objective of this report is to provide a useful input into the process of developing coordinated interagency strategies to build the capacity of Aboriginal communities to take advantage of existing services.

### Tools and techniques for community recovery and renewal

Centre for Community Enterprise, Canada – [www.cedworks.com/](http://www.cedworks.com/)

Select "Community resilience" from menu. After completion of a registration form, this publication is available in PDF format.

### Action research resources

#### Action research e-reports

Faculty of Health Sciences, University of Sydney – [www.cchs.usyd.edu.au/arow/arer/](http://www.cchs.usyd.edu.au/arow/arer/)

Fourteen reports covering action research methodology, projects, history, and Indigenous action research.

#### Action research resources

Southern Cross University – [www.scu.edu.au/schools/gcm/ar/arhome.html](http://www.scu.edu.au/schools/gcm/ar/arhome.html) Online resource papers are presented which support Areol (action research and evaluation on line), a 14-week public course offered each semester as a public service by Southern Cross University and the Institute of Workplace Research Learning and Development. A number of discussion lists are available.

#### Action research, relativism and critical realism

Collaborative Action Research Network, University of East Anglia, UK – [www.uea.ac.uk/care/carn/Members\\_papers/Richard\\_Winter.html](http://www.uea.ac.uk/care/carn/Members_papers/Richard_Winter.html) Richard Winter's paper on a theoretical justification for action research.

#### Issues of trustworthiness and credibility in action research

Association for Qualitative Research, AQR Conferences – [www.latrobe.edu.au/aqr/offer/papers/BDick.htm](http://www.latrobe.edu.au/aqr/offer/papers/BDick.htm) Paper presented at the Issues of Rigour in Qualitative Research conference, Melbourne, 1999, by Bob Dick.

#### Participatory action research world congress, Ballarat, September 2000

University of Ballarat – [www.ballarat.edu.au/alarpm/list.shtml](http://www.ballarat.edu.au/alarpm/list.shtml) Online papers from the ALARPM/PAR World Conference are available for downloading in Word format.

#### Reconnect action research kit

Commonwealth Department of Family and Community Services, 2000 – [www.facs.gov.au/internet/facsinternet.nsf/aboutfacs/programs/youth-reconnect\\_action\\_research\\_kit.htm](http://www.facs.gov.au/internet/facsinternet.nsf/aboutfacs/programs/youth-reconnect_action_research_kit.htm) This kit is designed to explain action research and how it fits into the

Federal Government's Reconnect Program, an early intervention program which addresses the needs of young people who are homeless or at risk of homelessness, and their families.

### Family strengths

#### A meta-analysis of the impact of community-based prevention and early intervention action

Department of Family and Community Services, 2001 (PDF 365K) – [www.facs.gov.au/internet/facsinternet.nsf/4a0e577e7b9d1e2aca2568070012e251f80c6990abddba3eca25685f00167457/\\$FILE/PRP+No.11.pdf](http://www.facs.gov.au/internet/facsinternet.nsf/4a0e577e7b9d1e2aca2568070012e251f80c6990abddba3eca25685f00167457/$FILE/PRP+No.11.pdf) National and international literature is reviewed to address two principal questions: What is the evidence that prevention and early intervention programs promote the development of stronger communities and create measurable positive social outcomes? What is the evidence that there is a cost-benefit to be achieved by government supporting such programs?

#### A review of the early childhood literature

Commonwealth Department of Family and Community Services, 2000 (PDF 194K) – [www.facs.gov.au/internet/facsinternet.nsf/b919d06b2c7d99e3ca256807001393b2/17b77b50cd8dbb42ca2568e0001e1869/\\$FILE/earlychildhood.pdf](http://www.facs.gov.au/internet/facsinternet.nsf/b919d06b2c7d99e3ca256807001393b2/17b77b50cd8dbb42ca2568e0001e1869/$FILE/earlychildhood.pdf)

Commissioned review of the literature on major risk and protective factors that may influence children's developmental outcomes in the preschool years, and on the preventive and early interventions that may impact on these outcomes.

#### Australian couples in millennium three: a research and development agenda for marriage and relationship education

Commonwealth Department of Family and Community Services, 2000 (PDF 408K) – [www.facs.gov.au/internet/facsinternet.nsf/b919d06b2c7d99e3ca256807001393b2/17b77b50cd8dbb42ca2568e0001e1869/\\$FILE/AustralianCouples.pdf](http://www.facs.gov.au/internet/facsinternet.nsf/b919d06b2c7d99e3ca256807001393b2/17b77b50cd8dbb42ca2568e0001e1869/$FILE/AustralianCouples.pdf)

A commissioned report on how to enhance the effectiveness of marriage and relationship education in strengthening marriage and relationships in Australia.

### Building communities that strengthen families: elements of effective approaches

*Australian Institute of Family Studies 2000* – [www.aifs.org.au/institute/seminars/scott.html](http://www.aifs.org.au/institute/seminars/scott.html)

Paper presented at Institute's seminar by Dorothy Scott which outlines conceptual and empirical components of a strong foundation for developing programs aimed at family strengthening and community building, and identifies some of the challenges for programs in "going to scale".

### Community interventions to promote healthy social environments: early childhood development and family housing

*Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, USA, February 2002* – [www.cdc.gov/mmwr/preview/mmwrhtml/rr5101a1.htm](http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/preview/mmwrhtml/rr5101a1.htm)

A report on recommendations of the Task Force on Community Preventive Services, reviewing early childhood development and family housing interventions. It recommends publicly funded, centre-based, comprehensive early childhood development programs for low-income children aged three to five years, and housing subsidy programs for low-income families which provide rental vouchers for use in the private housing market and allow families choice in residential location.

### Family strengths: everybody's business, everybody's gain: second Australian conference on building family strengths – University of Newcastle, December 2001

*Papers* – [www.pco.com.au/familystrengths/](http://www.pco.com.au/familystrengths/)

The following papers from this conference are available Online:

"Connections: a group to assist in building relationships between mothers and children in overcoming the effects of domestic violence", by Robards, F. and Partridge, S.

"Developing the longitudinal survey of Australian children", by Dickenson, J. and Grant, M.

"Engaging fathers in group work: creating cooperative environments", by King, A.

"Families and communities connect@public libraries", by Robinson, L.

"Getting it right on both fronts: an integrated strengths-based approach to practice and organisational management", by Barnardos Australia.

"In the eyes of the beholders: visionaries and advocates", by Dowling, L. (Families and disability).

"Social capital: linking family and community", by Stone, W. and Hughes, J.

"The ACT schools as communities program", by Collins, K. and Winkworth, G.

"Two hands, three baskets and hope: parents rebuilding after child sexual abuse", by Whittington, H.

"Unlocking the essence of professional home visiting: a strengths approach to improved parenting", by Bryce, H. and Ellison, L.

"Working with fathers where they are: learnings from the workplace", by Russell, G. and Llewellyn-Smith, P.

### Family strengths research project

*Family Action Centre, University of Newcastle, 2000 (PDF 603K)* – [www.newcastle.edu.au/centre/fac/programs/fsreport.pdf](http://www.newcastle.edu.au/centre/fac/programs/fsreport.pdf)

This project developed an Australian Inventory of Family Strengths consisting of 85 strength statements. Over 600 volunteers who identified themselves as members of a family with strengths filled out this inventory. The Family Strengths Theme Research entailed a qualitative analysis of family strengths stories provided by more than 70 family members in the form of open-question surveys and interviews. This report outlines the structure and the results of both studies, and discusses how the findings of both projects have been incorporated to produce an Australian Family Strengths Template.

### Housing, social capital and stronger communities

*Australian Housing and Urban Research Institute, 2001 (PDF 138K)* – [www.ahuri.edu.au/pubs/positioning/pp\\_stronger.pdf](http://www.ahuri.edu.au/pubs/positioning/pp_stronger.pdf)

The first stage of the "Strengthening communities: the contribution of housing policy and planning" project, this positioning paper establishes the framework for an empirical examination of the relationship between housing and social capital in the strengthening of communities.

### Identification and analysis of indicators of community strength and outcomes

*Department of Family and Community Services, 2001 (PDF 437K)* – [www.facs.gov.au/internet/facsinternet.nsf/vIA/occasional\\_papers/\\$file/No.3.pdf](http://www.facs.gov.au/internet/facsinternet.nsf/vIA/occasional_papers/$file/No.3.pdf)

Provides a review and analysis of literature on the conceptualisation and measurement of community strength and its outcomes; places this information in an analytical framework, identifying the commonalities and differences between various approaches to these issues; provides a menu of options of indicators for measuring community strength, especially indicators on which data are available or collectable; and evaluates those options as a total set.

### Searching for family resilience

*Australian Institute of Family Studies, 2001 (PDF 596K)* – [www.aifs.org.au/institute/pubs/fm2001/fm58/ss.pdf](http://www.aifs.org.au/institute/pubs/fm2001/fm58/ss.pdf)  
Article by Simone Silberberg with information about the University of Newcastle Family Action Centre's Family Strengths Research Project and the Australian Family Strengths Template, which aims to offer a framework from which community resources can be developed and other research projects can be initiated.

### Work and family: current thinking, research and practice

*Commonwealth Department of Family and Community Services, 2000 (PDF 256K)* – [www.facs.gov.au/internet/facsinternet.nsf/b919d06b2c7d99e3ca256807001393b2/17b77b50cd8dbb42ca2568e0001e1869/\\$FILE/work\\_family.pdf](http://www.facs.gov.au/internet/facsinternet.nsf/b919d06b2c7d99e3ca256807001393b2/17b77b50cd8dbb42ca2568e0001e1869/$FILE/work_family.pdf)

Work and family issues, including the influence of work on family strength and wellbeing, are examined in this commissioned family research paper.

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